

REMARKS

Restriction Requirement

Applicants herein acknowledge the restriction requirement in the above-referenced application. Claims 1-18 are currently pending in the application. The Office has identified the following groups of claims as being drawn to separate inventions:

Group I – Claims 1-18, drawn to a process of immobilizing compound on silica matrix using siliffin polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 1, classified in class 435, subclass 131;

Group II – Claims 1-4, 6-18, drawn to a process of immobilizing compound on silica matrix using siliffin polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 2, classified in class 435, subclass 131;

Group III – Claims 1-4, 6-18, drawn to a process of immobilizing compound on silica matrix using siliffin polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 3, classified in class 435, subclass 131;

Group IV – Claims 1-4, 6-18, drawn to a process of immobilizing compound on silica matrix using siliffin polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 4, classified in class 435, subclass 131;

Group V – Claims 1-4, 6-18, drawn to a process of immobilizing compound on silica matrix using siliffin polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 5, classified in class 435, subclass 131;

Group VI – Claims 1-4, 6-18, drawn to a process of immobilizing compound on silica matrix using siliffin polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 6, classified in class 435, subclass 131; and

Group VII – Claims 1-4, 6-18, drawn to a process of immobilizing compound on silica

matrix using siliffin polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 7, classified in class 435, subclass 131.

Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-18, without traverse.

Please Note Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants wish to draw the Examiner's attention to the Information Disclosure Statement filed with the Office on March 18, 2004, and respectfully request that the documents or other information referenced therein be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of the PTO/SB/08 form be returned to the undersigned attorney evidencing same.

Should any of the documents, or portions thereof, be unavailable to the Examiner for any reason, please contact the undersigned attorney, who will supply same immediately by facsimile or other suitable method of delivery.

CONCLUSION

An early Office Action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bradley B. Jensen", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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